

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A preparation ~~Preparation~~ of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A preparation ~~Preparation~~ according to claim 1, comprising live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pharmaceutical ~~Pharmaceutical~~ preparation comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. and one or more excipients.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A plasma ~~Plasma~~ cholesterol-lowering agent comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.

5. (ORIGINAL) Use of a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for the production of a medicament for lowering plasma cholesterol.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food ~~Feed~~ supplement with cholesterol-lowering properties, comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food ~~Feed~~ supplement according to claim 6 wherein said preparation comprises the membrane fraction or live or freeze-dried bacteria.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A probiotic ~~Probiotic~~ with cholesterol-lowering properties containing a preparation of live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Foodstuff comprising a food supplement according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~Method~~ for the production of a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp., comprising culturing one or more cells of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. to a multi-cellular culture, harvesting said culture, and processing the cells of said culture into a preparation.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~Method~~ according to claim 10, involving processing the cells of said culture into a preparation of live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~Method~~ for the production of a food supplement according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, comprising making suitable for consumption a preparation ~~according to claim 1 or 2~~ of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament with or without live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~Method~~ for the production of a foodstuff ~~according to claim 9~~, comprising incorporating a food supplement according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~ into a foodstuff.

14. (NEW) Foodstuff comprising a food supplement according to claim 7.

15. (NEW) A method for the production of a food supplement according to claim 7, comprising making suitable for consumption a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament with or without live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.

16. (NEW) A method for the production of a foodstuff, comprising incorporating a food supplement according to claim 7 into a foodstuff.